

While big city daily newspapers and television stations jostle to see how many stories they can cover about war, murder, mayhem and people who have done things they shouldn't, community newspapers such as the Salem Times-Register put on their front pages articles about a hometown student who scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test; what the family of an autistic child is doing at home to help him be as much of a regular kid as possible and Air Force Capt. Matt Stephens' visit while home from Iraq to West Salem Elementary School where he was a fourth-grader and met his future wife.

And so it has been since The Salem Weekly Register was founded in 1854.

Today there are eight papers in the chain, all printed on the company's press in the plant at 1633 W. Main Street in Salem.

Wilson Koeppel and Jeff Stumb purchased the Salem Times-Register and its then-three sister papers in March 2001. The two men had already bought the Christiansburg News Messenger and the Radford News Journal in November 2000. Koeppel's son, Lawson Koeppel, is the bright young general manager of the Salem paper and the five others in Main Street Newspapers that serve communities in the Roanoke Valley.

Today the Salem Times-Register continues as "The only paper that puts Salem first," concentrating on news of Salem and Salem people. In addition, in 2004 the Times Register went online, along with its sister papers, giving former Salem residents across the world a way to keep up with their hometown news.

In 2003 the Times-Register distinguished itself by winning the Virginia Press Association's Sweepstakes Award as the best newspaper out of all the newspapers its circulation size in the state.

The staff continues to bring the people of the Salem area the best in local news, sports coverage, photographs, items about accomplishments by Salem students and adults, business news and advertisements.

Koeppel and Stumb purchased the Salem paper, The Fincastle Herald, The Vinton Messenger and The New Castle Record from Ray and Jeanne Robinson.

For more than 30 years, Ray Robinson, who remains as publisher emeritus, never missed being there when the newspaper rolled off the presses each Wednesday. Because there were only five people in the early years, everybody had to do a little bit of everything.

"The delivery boy was me. The photographer was me. The design and makeup of the papers was me. The assistant pressman was me," Robinson recalled.

Shortly after the Times-Register was founded, like many others it was a casualty of the Civil War and quit publishing in 1861. It was reincarnated as the Roanoke Times, a weekly, in 1866. The paper's name changed with subsequent owners, with more than 14 different publishers and editors over the next few years.

The Register officially merged with the Roanoke Times weekly in 1883. Salem wasn't a one-newspaper town, though. The Salem Sentinel was founded the following year, and according to author Woody Middleton, the two were intensely competitive. "The Times-Register was published each Friday in a two-story frame building on College Avenue adjacent to the Town Hall. The Sentinel came off the press each Tuesday."

Like most small newspapers in the early 1900s, front pages of both papers were filled with national and international news. Readers had to look inside, where coverage of social events and who visited whom got equal space with community developments.

Subscribers paid \$1 a year for their papers.

The Sentinel merged with the Times-Register in 1903 after about six months of the respective editors sniping at each other through their columns.

For 33 years the name of the paper was The Salem Times-Register and Sentinel. Sentinel was dropped from the masthead in 1936 and since then, it has been the Salem Times-Register.

It is with great pride that I congratulate the talented staff that puts out the Salem Times-Register on reaching this milestone and I wish them continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote No. 177, "yes" on recorded vote No. 178, and "yes" on recorded vote No. 179.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, which will allow small business to join together to better provide their hardworking employees with health care coverage. This important legislation will solve the serious problem with the growing number of uninsured American workers.

It is reported that as many as 60 percent of America's 43.6 million uninsured are employed in small businesses throughout the country. Over the last few years, small business employers have become unable to provide their workers with affordable health care as a result of the rapid and unjust rise in the cost of health insurance.

As a former small business owner, I understand the plight felt by employers, who want nothing more than to provide employees and their families with quality health care.

The Small Business Health Fairness Act will afford these smaller businesses the same rights that large corporations and unions have and enable their representative associations to form Association Health Plans (AHPs), which will offer health care nationwide to member businesses. AHPs will be crucial in closing the gap the small business community is facing

with the increase of uninsured American workers.

It is imperative that we act now by passing this legislation so that our nation's small business employees can immediately begin receiving health care for their families.

Last year, the House passed a virtually identical bill with strong bipartisan support, but it unfortunately never saw the light of day in the Senate. I am hopeful that this body will pass this measure today, and quickly send it to the Senate for consideration. We can no longer allow these dedicated employees to live and work without health insurance.

I thank the Chairman for giving me time to talk about my strong support of H.R. 4281.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 3722, the "Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004," because it would establish an unfunded mandate on an already overburdened and under-funded medical care system. Hospital workers would be required to gather several pieces of information from their patients to prove their citizenship, including their fingerprints. This information would then be shared with the Department of Homeland Security, which would be required to monitor the information with a currently non-existent tracking system. This bill aims to create a costly burden on an already stressed medical system.

H.R. 3722 also poses a serious public health threat. The bill would create fear and confusion amongst both documented and undocumented immigrant families, discouraging them from seeking urgent medical care, possibly resulting in severe complications, the spread of infectious diseases and epidemics, and even death. I stand firmly opposed to this troubling legislation which poses a serious risk to public health and creates unnecessary monetary burdens upon hospitals and taxpayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall votes No. 177, No. 178 and No. 179. If present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 169, 170, 171, 172, 173,

174, 175, and 176. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 170, 174, 175, and 176. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 169, 171, 172, and 173.

HONORING THOMAS J. McMAHON

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. McMahon of Williamsville, New York, for his fifty years of active service as a volunteer firefighter.

For the past fifty-plus years, Thomas McMahon served the Williamsville community as a volunteer firefighter in the Hutchinson Hose Company of the Williamsville Fire Department.

Tom graduated from Bennett High school in 1939, and went on to complete a two-year course at the Chown School of Business. He was drafted into military service in 1942, and served our country as an Army Air Corps aircraft photographer. After the war, Tom and his wife Mary returned to the Buffalo area, settling in Williamsville in 1952. Shortly thereafter, in 1953, he joined the volunteer fire service, and still serves today.

Anytime a citizen volunteers his or her time for the betterment of the community, it is commendable. For one man to have given fifty years to volunteer firefighting is nothing short of remarkable. His commitment to his fellow citizens and dedication to his community truly exemplify the ideals of public service. Through his dedication, Tom has made a considerable and lasting contribution to our community, and for that he deserves our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring Mr. Thomas J. McMahon of Williamsville, New York, and thank him for his fifty years of active service as a volunteer firefighter.

HONORING NEVADA'S 2004 MOTHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Susan Wallace Leavitt, who has been awarded the 2004 Nevada Mother of the Year Award. The Mother of the Year Award honors women who are committed to strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of the family and home.

As a mother of four, Mrs. Leavitt has demonstrated the great responsibility of motherhood and dedication to living and teaching her children outstanding qualities, such as love, understanding, courage, service, and compassion. As a recipient of this award, Mrs. Leavitt will help deliver this message about motherhood to community organizations in Southern Nevada. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF WEBSTER

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the selection of the town of Webster as Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Sportstown for the state of New York. Jim Donahue, president of the National Recreation and Parks Association and David S. Morris, publisher of Sports Illustrated, presented the award to the Webster Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with Webster Community Partnership on May 15, 2004.

Criteria for the selection was based upon the implementation of philosophy, policy/procedures, education and training strategies, youth development strategies, community commitment to parks and recreation resources, innovations for community development, and scope of the programming.

The Town of Webster shows a unique ability in combining resources with the Central School District and Youth Sports council to facilitate sports programs for the benefit of the entire community. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Town of Webster for its hard work, dedication to community development and thank all volunteers and officials who make the program a success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House the American Lung Association on this, its 100th anniversary.

Since 1904, the American Lung Association has been leading the fight against lung disease in all its forms. Although it began as a network of community-based organizations dedicated to eradicating tuberculosis, over the past 100 years the Association has dramatically expanded its research, education and advocacy programs to address the growing problem of chronic lung disease. With nearly 200 offices across the nation, the Association has grown to become one of America's most prominent health-related organizations.

Today, more than 35 million Americans are living with chronic lung disease. Every year, close to 344,000 Americans die of lung disease, making it the nation's number three killer. These are some frightening statistics, but without the American Lung Association, one can only imagine just how high these numbers could soar.

Mr. Speaker, I feel honored and privileged to be able to thank the American Lung Association for all its hard work and determination in fighting lung disease. There's no question, this remarkable organization is living out its mission of "improving life, one breath at a time." One hundred years is an incredible accomplishment, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, and a grateful nation, I say congratulations.

CONGRATULATING THE VIRGINIA DINER ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Virginia Diner in Wakefield, Virginia, on the marking of their 75th Anniversary. Located in southeastern Sussex County, the Virginia Diner represents the best of homestyle cooking the Commonwealth of Virginia has to offer.

Over the past 75 years, few have been able to travel through Wakefield, down U.S. Route 460, without stopping to sample the southern cuisine this Virginia landmark has to offer.

In 1929, Mrs. D'Earcy Davis started serving hungry customers her now famous hot biscuits in a refurbished Sussex, Surry and Southampton Railroad car. With a bit of southern charm, some hard work and a loyal following, the Virginia Diner started to make its mark on Virginia. Since 1929, the Virginia Diner has continued to prosper and has grown with the times while never forgetting its rich history.

Today, the Virginia Diner is a culturally and culinary landmark. Wakefield is not only home to some of America's finest peanuts but it is also the address of home-style cooking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Virginia Diner and the Galloway family on this special occasion and I hope you will join me in wishing them well on the next 75 years.

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PHILIP C. STITTELBURG, REMARKS ON THE CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2004

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement for the RECORD:

On behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council and the more than 800,000 members of America's volunteer fire and emergency services, I would like to thank Representative Ed Markey (MA) and Peter King (NY) for their steadfast leadership and long-time commitment to the implementation of fire safety standards for cigarettes.

H.R. 4155 is bipartisan legislation which will set a reasonable ignition standard for cigarettes and help to prevent an estimated 800 deaths, 2,200 injuries and nearly \$560 million dollars in damages caused by cigarette ignited fires every year. Cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal fires and children and firefighters themselves are at extremely high risk for burn and fire injuries from these fires. That is why this issue resonates so strongly for us and continues to be a priority of our organization.

As everyone is aware, both New York State and Canada have passed cigarette fire safety standards that are due to go into effect this summer. This legislation will require that the CPSC adopt the New York cigarette fire safety standard as the national standard.

On April 30, a 69-year-old Portland, Oregon woman died after a cigarette she was smoking in bed ignited a fire. On April 28, a 64-